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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: 09/942,015 )  
Filed: August 29, 2001 )  
For: DESIGN SOFTWARE: )  
SELF-PIERCING RIVET )  
ANALYSIS (F.E.A.) )  
Applicant: Steve Donovan )  
Examiner: Not yet assigned )  
Art Unit: 2122 )  
Attorney Ref: 140/39314/O&T 874 )

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 30, 2002.

James R. Foley

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Technology Center 2100

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449.

Applicant became aware of the references cited in this Information Disclosure Statement through an International Search Report dated November 26, 2002 which issued in connection with corresponding PCT patent application No. PCT/US02/27337 filed on August 27, 2002.

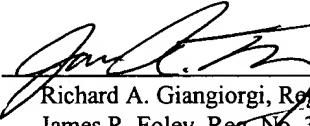
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits and constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 30, 2002

By: 

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